The University of Alberta Department of Music presents:

Undergraduate Composers Concert

Friday, April 16, 2010 at 5:00 p.m.
Convocation Hall, Arts Building

DEPARTMENT OF
MUSIC
UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

Undergraduate Student Composers Concert - April 16, 2010

Convocation Hall, University of Alberta, 5:00 p.m.

CONTEMPO New Music Ensemble,
Dr. Andriy Talpash, director

1. *The Journey* — Cody Willetts

Electroacoustic composition

2. *Sand Dunes* — Matthew Falk

3. *Apóstoles de la mora (Apostles of Mulberry)* — Yu-Ting Lin

4. *Fixed Quartet* — Harrison Lee

Jessica McMillan, flute, Daniel Brophy, guitar, Reg Kachanoski, percussion, Robyn Reekie, double bass

5. *Evangelium* — Eric Lam

Stephen Lewis, saxophone, and live electronics

6. *Electric Aria* — Raimundo Gonzalez

Mirjam Frank, voice, and live electronics

--- brief intermission ---

7. *Devastated* — Marina Zaini

8. *Beneath* — Louis Bouchier

9. *Fallout* — Bryan LeGrow

Megan Teha, saxophone, Marie Krejcar, violin,
Tina Chia, percussion, Yu-Ting, piano

10. *Lysergy* — Ian Bonyun

Sandra Joy-Friesen, piano, and live electronics

11. *Monism Explained* — Jeremy Doody

12. *Prelude to Nothing* — Nadia Nasedkin

13. *E C T* — Jonathan Maywood
I.
II.

Mirjam Frank, voice, Rachel Soong, clarinet,
Stephen Lewis, saxophones,
Julian Savaryn, cello, Sandra Joy-Friesen, piano

Sand Dunes

This piece was inspired by "Sand Dunes," a poem by Robert Frost. The poem speaks of the ocean believing it has swept mankind off the face of the earth with the crash of waves upon the land, and the destruction of life altogether. However, the soul of man is immortal and will last forever.

The piece is mostly aleatoric, meaning, the conductor just gives cues to the performers in real time, as opposed to actually beating time, in say, 4/4. You may notice near the end of the piece that the conductor begins to cue numbers to the performers. Here, I designated different motives for each of the instruments to play corresponding with a cued number (except the bass), and the conductor just picks at random whichever motive he feels. Thus, the texture of this section will be entirely up to the performers and the conductor. – Matthew Falk (2010)

Apóstoles de la mora (Apostles of Mulberry)

What yearnings are perennial, though endlessly tinged and refracted as they pass through
transient protocols and fashions?

Who believed, and trusted each other? What name did they give to that which they felt?
How many names have we given something? What things have we referred to under one name?

Who can remind and reassure one to keep on asking, even if searching takes one to the end of the world? – Yu-Ting Lin (2010)

Evangelium

The Evangelium is about:

The dark and the light,
The battle and the peace,
The lost of direction and knowing the direction,
The restricted time and the limitless time,
The ugly and the beauty,
The struggle and the faith,

of the composer.... – Eric Lam (2010)

Electric Aria

Nine teens charged in bullying that led to girl's suicide

CNN Wire Staff
March 30, 2010

Nine Massachusetts teenagers have been charged with involvement in a months long campaign of bullying that led to the January suicide of a 15-year-old girl.

Phoebe Prince's body was found hanging in the stairway leading to her family's second-floor apartment in South Hadley, Northwestern District Attorney Elizabeth D.

"It appears that Phoebe's death on January 14 followed a torturous day for her when she was subjected to verbal harassment and physical abuse,"

Earlier that day, Phoebe had been harassed as she studied in the library at South Hadley High School, apparently in the presence of a faculty member and several students, **none of whom reported it until after the girl's death**... -- Raimundo Gonzalez (2010)

Devastated

Life does not seem as beautiful as we always have imagined. Tragedies would visit us
along the way. In the moment of loss, everything seems ruined.

Devastated is inspired by the devastation of a woman who was abandoned by her husband after 21 years of marriage. Life seems no meaning of living anymore after that. The only drive that kept her going was her five beautiful children who still needed the mother's love although she was sunk in a deep devastation.

Devastated is through-composed on the violin part and a simple program is being applied to the piano, which uses some shifting algorithm. – Marina Zaini (2010)

Fallout

It is hard to place specific inspiration behind this composition. The best description I can give is that it is a musical exploration around the ideas of humanity, war and destruction. It does not focus specifically on the physical, but all aspects including the mental and spiritual planes. It begins as a "calm before the storm" type of idea. It then builds into a more aggressive middle section that occasionally takes pause and it concludes as a barren and desolate aftermath of the aggression. This piece also seems to reflect humanity's falling out from itself. – Bryan LeGrow (2010)

Monism Explained

Monism is the philosophical doctrine that reality is comprised of a single basic substance or element. I chose the simple, concise expression of this notion "Everything is One" as the text for this piece. I have endeavored to explain in musical terms how reality, in all its apparent multiplicity and variety, can be constituted by an underlying, monolithic oneness by limiting the sounds in the piece to a single pitch: "A" 440 Hz. All of the phonetic sounds from the text, as well as a wide variety of dynamics, rhythms, and vocal and instrumental timbres have been applied to this single pitch as a means of demonstrating how so many perceptually different elements can all be fundamentally the same. This serves as a microcosmic illustration of the oneness of the Universe. – Jeremy Doody (2010)

Prelude to Nothing

It seems so many people spend their entire lives waiting. Waiting to grow up, waiting to finish school, waiting to get married, waiting to have children, and while they wait, life passes by. In my piece, Prelude to Nothing, I explore this sense of waiting musically. Using a simple harmonic skeleton, Prelude to Nothing waits patiently for "something " to happen… -- Nadia Nasedkin (2010)

E C T (2010)

I.

II.

"I have nightly nightmares, where I would wake up screaming. I hear myself screaming. And it was a repeated nightmare where I see a tall man and have this feeling of cold on my forehead, which I have later learned is the jelly where the electrodes go. I feel the electricity going through my body and the people holding me down. And ah…and I wake up screaming. This is very vivid."

- Gail Kastner, a victim of Ewen Cameron's psychiatric experiments at the Allen Memorial Institute.

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